

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 04956 211654Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6668
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 04956

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECDEF AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, OCON, AWACS, MILI, GW
SUBJECT: NATO AEW AND TANK STANDARDIZATION

1. AT CHANCELLOR'S RECEPTION MARCH 20 I DISCUSSED
AWACS AND TANK STANDARDIZATION BRIEFLY WITH FRG CHIEF
OF STAFF GENERAL WUST.

2. WUST ASSERTED THAT FRG POSITION ON AWACS WAS
"POSITIVE" AND THAT LEBER'S TALKS IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN
MOST HELPFUL. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT US HAD MADE
FORWARD MOVE IN CONNECTION WITH FINANCING QUESTION, BUT
THAT FRG CONTINUED TO BELIEVE ITS SHARE SHOULD BE NO
MORE THAN THAT OF UK. ACCORDING TO WUST, LEBER
DEFINITELY WILL ATTEND MEETING OF NATO MOD'S MARCH 25.

3. WUST MENTIONED THAT IT HAD BEEN AGREED IN
WASHINGTON THAT AN AWACS DEMONSTRATION AIRCRAFT SHOULD
COME TO BONN IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IN SEPARATE CONVER-
SATION WITH RUHFUS OF THE CH,ANCELLOR'S OFFICE, HE
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CONFIRMED TO ME THAT AWACS PLANE WAS EXPECTED SOON. HE
DOUBTED IF ANYTHING NEW WOULD BE GAINED BY EXPERTS FROM
SUCH A VISIT, BUT THAT IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN CONVINCING
KEY BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES OF VALUE OF NEW SYSTEM.

4. ON TANK STANDARDIZATION, WUST STRESSED IMPORTANCE
OF US ADOPTING FRG GUN FOR THE XM-1. WITHOUT THIS,

HE SAID, ANY TALK OF STANDARDIZATION WOULD BE EMPTY.
HE REMARKED THAT THERE WAS NO INTENTION ON PART OF FRG
MOD TO LINK TANK QUESTION AND AWACS, ALTHOUGH IT HAD TO
BE RECOGNIZED REALISTICALLY THAT BOTH WERE "PART OF THE
BIG PICTURE."

5. COMMENT: I HAVE APPOINTMENT TO SEE LEBER MARCH 24
AND WILL HOPE TO ASCERTAIN AT THAT TIME POSITION HE
INTENDS TO TAKE AT MOD'S MEETING IN BRUSSELS MARCH 25.
ON THE AWACS DEMONSTRATION PLANE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE
FURTHER INFORMATION FROM WASHINGTON ON DETAILS OF THE
BONN VISIT, IF INDEED THIS WAS DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON.
WE NOTE THAT DR. BLOCK, LEBER'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT,
TOLD EMBOFF TODAY, MARCH 21, THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY
DECISION TO SEND AWACS PLANE TO BONN, ALTHOUGH HE DID
NOT EXCLUDE THIS AT SOME POINT. I WILL ATTEMPT TO
CLARIFY FRG POSITION WHEN I SEE LEBER MARCH 24.
STOESSEL

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF.

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Message Attributes

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